

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Her concern for others, especially children, led her to become a foster parent. Judge Buckner's bar affiliations include memberships in the State Bar of Georgia, American Bar Association, National Bar Association, Columbus Bar Association, and the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys.

Among her numerous honors and awards are: The Tony Baldwin Trailblazer Award presented by the Black Law Students Association Alumni Council of Mercer University; The Barbara A. Harris Award for Service to the Community; and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Gamma Tau Omega Chapter 2009 Rosa Parks Women of Courage Honoree. She always advised others and especially young people that a person can achieve any goal with hard work, dedication, and commitment. She continued to make strides and create paths for diversity in the legal profession and wanted her legacy to show that she was fair yet compassionate on the bench. She knew that she had to follow the law but at the same time show empathy and concern for the wellbeing of all.

Judge Buckner accomplished much throughout her life, but none of this would have been possible without her enduring faith in God, the love and nurture of her parents, siblings, children, Jontell and Jackie, as well as her vast extended family, friends, and associates, all of whom will miss her deeply.

On a personal note, I have known Judge Buckner as "Mary B." since 1970, when I met her at Emory Law School. She and her family have inspired me and countless others. Not only was she my law partner, but she was my sister and trusted friend. Her friendship and support over the years have contributed mightily to my professional and political success, and I will be forever grateful that she has been a part of my life.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 residents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia in paying tribute to the Honorable Mary Alice Buckner for her service to humankind and in extending our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and all those who mourn her loss. Moreover, we pray that we will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

HONORING MRS. SHIRLEY FAYE
EDWARDS FRENCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 20, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy and service of a remarkable leader, Mrs. Shirley Faye Edwards French.

Shirley Faye Edwards was born on October 13, 1955 to the late Harold Edwards and Cora Burrell Walker. Born and raised in Marks, Mississippi, Shirley was a surprising addition to the family, coming 11 years after her mother's then youngest child.

Throughout her educational journey, Shirley made lifelong connections. Her third-grade teacher, Hattie Causey Purdy, became her

godmother, and mentored Shirley into adulthood. In 1973, Shirley graduated from Quitman County High School and matriculated to Northwest Mississippi Community College (NWCC). From NWCC, Shirley transferred to the University of Mississippi where she earned her Bachelor of Social Work in 1977.

On May 21, 1983, Shirley united in Holy Matrimony to Willie French, Jr. They are the proud parents of one daughter, Whitney Sade' French.

Valley Queen Missionary Baptist Church gave Shirley her spiritual foundation as well as a knack for community outreach. At Valley Queen, Shirley was active in Sunday School as the recording secretary. She served on the Board of Christian Education, which not only provided guidance and planning around Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, but also encouraged and awarded academic achievements. Shirley has been a lifelong member of Valley Queen with the exception of three years where she was a member of College Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. She currently serves as the church's announcing clerk.

Shirley has always been known for her outgoing personality and her gift of gab. She will talk to anyone about almost anything. This would have been a perfect skillset for her original dream job, a television broadcast journalist. However, plans changed and Shirley became a social worker. Shirley has used her voice to initiate positive changes in the lives of her clients and the communities she has served over the past 44 years.

Shirley has a legacy of "firsts" throughout her career. Shirley was the first Social Worker/Community Engagement Coordinator for Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center, Inc. She helped plan and implement Jackson Police Department's Domestic Violence Case Management Program. Shirley was the first Director of the Quitman County Development Organization daycare center, and she was the first Project Director for the original Delta Futures Healthy Start Initiative, now known as Delta HealthPartners. After serving as a "first" in many organizations, Shirley spent time in program administration during her tenure at Youth Opportunities Unlimited, Inc. The program she is most known for during her time at Y.O.U. was M.A.D.A.M.E. Butterfly. While at Y.O.U., Shirley decided to further her education and earned her Master of Social Work, which she received in 2016. Currently, Shirley serves as a Social Work Case Manager for Delta HealthPartners Healthy Start Initiative under the auspices of Tougaloo College.

In addition to giving back to the community through her church and career, Shirley shares her gifts and knowledge with others on a regular basis. Shirley is well known for serving as Mistress of Ceremony (program guide) for many church programs and funerals in the community. She has worked behind the scenes to help plan community programs, birthday parties, and retirement celebrations. She offers her skills in critiquing to give valuable feedback on documents and to help clarify and expand ideas. Her networking is unmatched and she is never afraid to make connections or requests that will help those around her reach their goals.

Shirley makes sure those around her know that she is thinking about them and she cares. Shirley will stop her car and speak to those

whom she once taught in Sunday School, former program participants, and former neighbors. She is also one to strike up a conversation in the grocery store or at the gas station. In addition to asking about how the person and their family and friends are doing, she will often give a history lesson on their family or the community. More importantly, Shirley reminds people of goals they have shared with her, positive attributes she's noticed about them, and offers words of encouragement. Much like her mother, she has a phone network of friends and family members she checks in with on a regular basis and she is very adamant about recognizing and celebrating birthdays, holidays, accomplishments, and other special occasions.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Shirley Faye Edwards French for her dedication in serving her community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ARGYLE
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 20, 2021

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Argyle High School Boys' Basketball Team for their commendable victory at the Division 4A state championship. The Argyle Eagles, through their laudable dedication and perseverance, qualified to compete in their UIL conference's state championship in March 2021. With their impressive performance at the final match against Huffman Hargrave High School at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, the team secured the state title for the second time in its history.

Led by Head Basketball Coach Russell Perkins and MVP Skylar McCurry, the Eagles' near perfect 29-1 game season culminated in their notable state victory. It is my pleasure to congratulate them on their stellar repeat championship.

The Argyle High School Boys' Basketball team exhibited remarkable teamwork, sportsmanship and camaraderie amidst the challenges brought about by a challenging year. I applaud each player, coach, and coordinator for their exemplary efforts and congratulate them for attaining their goals in the 2020-2021 basketball season. I wish every one of them continued success in their future athletic, educational and professional endeavors.

SHIRLEY ANN JOHNSON

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 20, 2021

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Shirley Ann Johnson, a caring wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, godmother, sister, aunt, and friend.

Shirley graduated from Booker T. High School in Norfolk, VA, and went on to marry the love of her life, Rolland L. Johnson, Sr. They had two children, Rolland L. Johnson,

Jr., and Nicole D. Collier who affectionately called her Momma. They moved to Northern Virginia where they settled their family in Dale City.

Shirley's strong faith led them to Little Union Baptist Church in Dumfries, VA. There, she was an integral part of the Children's Ministry and quickly became a beloved favorite of the local children. Shirley loved to play softball and volleyball and encouraged her children to enjoy sports as well.

Shirley and Rolland Sr.'s children supplied them with 9 grandchildren who all referred to Shirley as Nana. They became the object of her affection and often the grandchildren would be found at Nana's while she whipped up her famous oatmeal cookies or delicious macaroni and cheese. Always generous with her time, Shirley could be seen shuffling the grandchildren from place to place and she was always present for pivotal moments in their life. The close bond that they shared did not falter when they teased that Nana had "no filter" later in life, when she shared her opinion about their choice of clothes or hair style.

Shirley's faith was only strengthened when she was diagnosed with cancer in 2011, with a 25 percent chance to live. Arising from the debilitating treatment, she even surprised medical professionals with her amazing courage, faith, and strength.

However, as the years went by, the remnants of chemotherapy and twice a day radiation took a toll on her body. Gradually losing strength but always maintaining her sharp mind, her beloved husband took on the task of giving her the best love and attentive care only he could provide. Cameron, her granddaughter spent countless days and hours assisting Nana towards the end of her life and was always able to bring a smile to her face or make her laugh even when the days were long and hard.

On August 29, 2021, phrases like "please don't go Momma," or "today was not your day, Nana" were spoken but God had a different plan and called her home to Glory. She is now reunited with her parents Helen and Thomas Joyner, her sisters Gladys, Mary, and Willie Mae, her brothers Walter, Lewis and Donald and other loving family members.

Shirley leaves behind a legacy of love and precious memories to be cherished by her relatives, friends, and community. Shirley's love and unwavering commitment to faith and family will be deeply missed by our Fort Worth community.

IN RECOGNITION OF OLYMPIC
MEDALIST BUBBA STARLING

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 20, 2021

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bubba Starling for earning a silver medal as part of the United States national baseball team in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. With every inning, he demonstrated his determination, passion, and love of baseball. I am proud to say that a local Kansan was a part of this very special team.

Mr. Starling began his athletic career in Gardner, Kansas as a multi-sport standout

athlete. Through baseball, he found his professional calling and, after being ranked in 2011 as the number 1 baseball recruit in the nation, was selected fifth overall in the Major League Baseball draft by his hometown team, the Kansas City Royals.

Given Mr. Starling's history of athletic achievement, it is no surprise that he would excel on the world's biggest stage as a part of the United States Olympic baseball team. Considering the special circumstances of these Olympics, it is even more impressive how Mr. Starling and his teammates rose to win the silver medal. Their perseverance through the pandemic was a beacon of hope in difficult times for our country and the world. I commend their resilience and demonstration of athletic excellence.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Bubba Starling on his silver medal in the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF MR. PAUL CATALANO

HON. CHRIS JACOBS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 20, 2021

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the 100th birthday of Mr. Paul Catalano.

Mr. Catalano is a proud lifelong Western New York resident. He was born and raised in Buffalo, New York, where he resided for most of his life.

Mr. Catalano is a member of the Greatest Generation and fought for our country in World War II, serving in the U.S. Army from 1942 until 1944 when he was honorably discharged as a Private First Class. After the war, he continued his service to our country as a Lieutenant in the National Guard. He also had a long and productive career in the Buffalo banking and retail industries and retired in 1991 from Riverside Credit Union.

Mr. Catalano and his late wife, Theresa, were happily married for 66 years. Mr. Catalano is the proud patriarch of his large family consisting of 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Catalano is proud of his Italian heritage, as demonstrated by his membership in the Federation of Italian American Societies of Western New York. He served as treasurer for the Federation for several decades, until retiring at the age of 98.

Mr. Catalano is also a lifelong New York Yankees fan and was privileged to see them play in his hometown of Buffalo at the age of 99.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Paul Catalano for his service to our country and in celebration of his 100th birthday.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH CHURCH
ANNIVERSARY OF ZION TRAVELER
CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 20, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy and

service of a remarkable church, Greater Zion Travelers M.B. Church.

Zion Traveler Church was organized on the 31st of July 1871 by Reverend Albert Young. Zion Travelers started out with just 30 members and since its founding has only had 13 Pastors: Rev. E.D. Jones, Rev. S.S. Butler, Rev. A.R. Tillman, Rev. J. West, Rev. Hue White, Rev. Henderson, Rev. Albert (Abe) Richie, Rev. C.J. Stevenson, Rev. U.E. Jones, Rev. C.H. Lowe, Rev. Willie Lewis, and Rev. Casey Fisher.

Rev. Lewis was elected as pastor in February 1967. One year into his stewardship, the congregation built a brick building with central heat, central air, two restrooms, running water, and a baptismal pool. This new building symbolized new beginnings for the church and thus led to its renaming: Greater Zion Travelers M.B. Church. Officers who served under him were Bro. Eugene Snow, Bro. Ivory Smith, Brother Hubert Smith, Bro. Sylvester Fields, Bro. Eddie Cooper, Bro. Louis McGriggs, and Bro. Talmadge Ross. Later, he added, Bro. Excell Snow, Bro. Robert Marbra, Bro. Upson, Bro. Claude Smith, Bro. James Simon, and Bro. Demell McGriggs. Trustees: Sis. Willie M. Callahan and Bro. C.P. Lyons.

The members were so dedicated that they paid the mortgage off in only 10 years. They continued to build upon that success by purchasing an organ, new pews with cushion seats, piano, bulletin board, desk, and chairs. Greater Zion was the only church at this time that had an asphalt parking lot. Rev. Lewis became Pastor Emeritus in May 2013. He died October 10, 2013, as the longest serving pastor of Greater Zion with 46 years.

Rev. Fisher, the son of Sharkey and the Late Katie Fisher, was elected pastor of Greater Zion May 2013. Rev. Fisher was reared in this church and brought excitement with his selection. He has continued the legacy of Greater Zion through area beautification, (installing the embossed name on the church, added three crosses at the entrance of the church), building renovations (removed carpet and replaced with treated concrete flooring, replaced carpet in the choir loft, purchased new furniture for the quiet room, Pastor's office, business office, and fellowship hall) and modernization. In honor of Reverend Lewis, Pastor Fisher dedicated the rear church entrance as the Willie Lewis Lane. He instituted the Church's first and only motto: "The Church on the Corner where Christ is the Center".

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Greater Zion has been a leader in providing much needed food and cleaning supplies to the community. In May 2020, Greater Zion partnered with local, county, and state elected officials to conduct Operation Give Back-Utica. Over 300 families were blessed. During the historic ice storm of 2021, Rev. Fisher and his members coordinated with State Representative Stephanie Foster for water distribution for the community. Six pallets (504 cases) of water were distributed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the legacy, and service of Greater Zion Travelers M.B. Church.